

NAGPRA in Practice:

A Perspective from the Burke
Museum

The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture



- Founded in 1885, the Burke Museum is Washington state's oldest museum.
- On University of Washington's campus

- **MISSION**

The Burke Museum is dedicated to creating a better understanding of the world and our place in it. The museum is responsible for Washington State collections of natural history and cultural heritage, and for sharing the knowledge that makes them meaningful. The Burke welcomes a broad and diverse audience and provides a community gathering place that nurtures life-long learning and encourages respect, responsibility, and reflection.

Archaeology Department



- Approximately 1 million artifacts
- Collections primarily from the Pacific Northwest, especially Washington State
- Collections researched by tribes, CRM, academia, students
- Archaeology Public Outreach Program
- Repository for Federal/State/Tribal governments

NAGPRA Staffing

Megon Noble

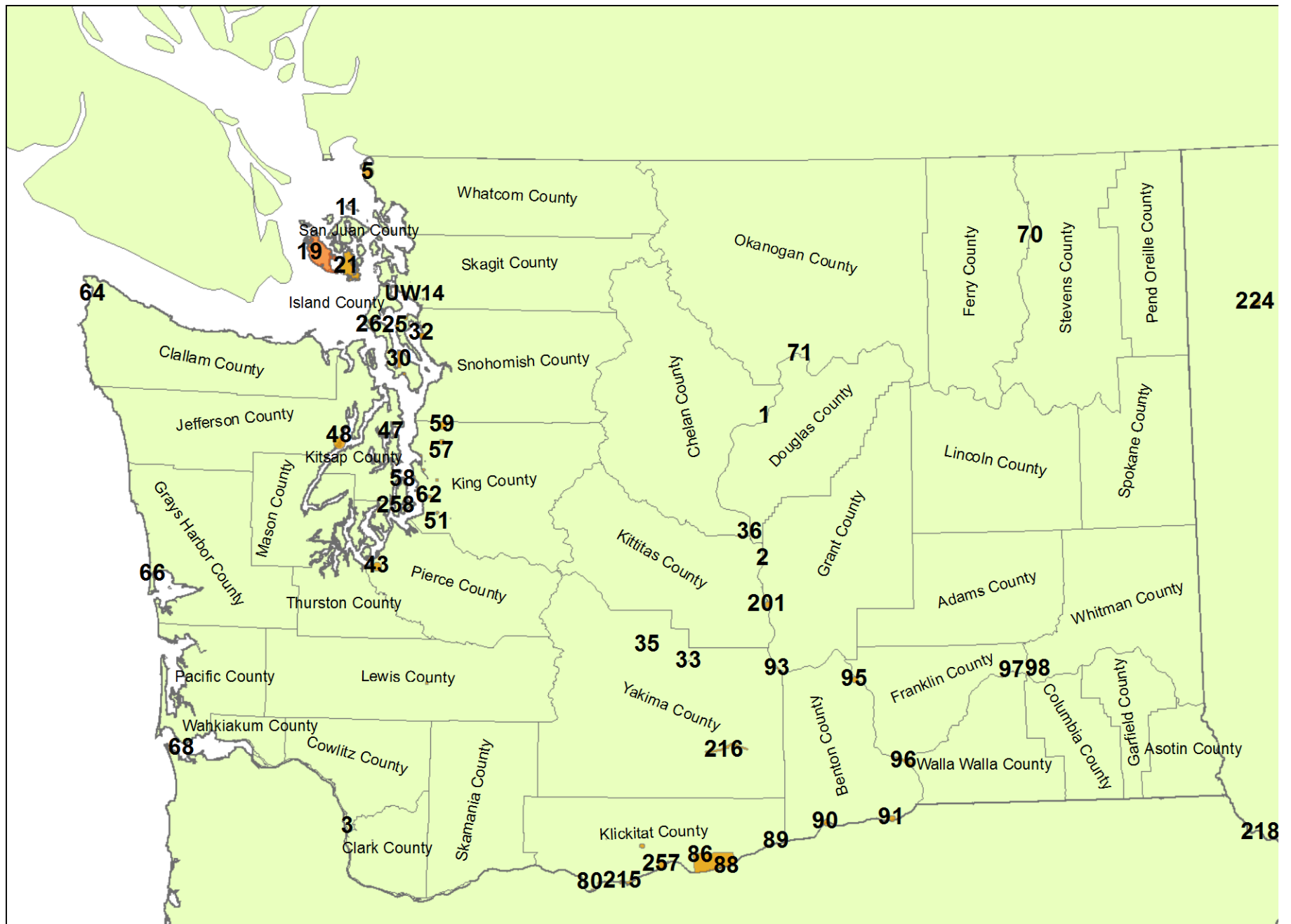
- Assistant Archaeology Collections Manager/NAGPRA Coordinator/Native American Advisory Board Coordinator

Jess Milhausen

- NAGPRA Collections Assistant/Shop Coordinator
- Registrar, Hollye Keister
- Archaeology Collections Manager, Laura Phillips
- Ethnology Collections Manager, Rebecca Andrews
- Curator of Archaeology, Peter Lape
- Curator of Native American Art, Robin Wright

Status of NAGPRA at the Burke

- 1990- approx. 420 Native American Human Remains
- 2012- approx. 340 individuals repatriated
 - 27 culturally unidentifiable remains from Washington State pending transfer
 - approx. 60 human remains remaining



Agency

- Washington State Parks and Recreation
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Energy
- University of Puget Sound
- Pierce College

NAGPRA: Policy, Procedures, and Practices

- Native American Collections Policies
- Recommendations for Tribal Letters Seeking Repatriation of Human Remains or Cultural Objects
- Collections Management Policy

NAGPRA: Philosophies

- Respect
- Transparency
- Flexibility
- Consult, consult, consult
- Proactive

Repatriation Process *From 43 CFR 10

Summaries (1993)



Consult



Wait for possible claim



Claim received/review



Publish Notice



Repatriate

Inventories (1995)



Consult



Determine Cultural
Affiliation



Publish Notice



Repatriate

Repatriation Process in the Real World

- Summaries and Inventories reported
- Consultation
- Updating summaries and inventories
- Continuing consultation
- Wait
- Claims submitted by Tribe or Native entity
- Continuing consultation
- Draft Notice of Inventory Completion/Intent to Repatriate submitted to tribes
- Wait
- Draft Notice of Inventory Completion/Intent to Repatriate submitted to National NAGPRA
- Wait
- Continuing consultation
- Planning for reburial/writing grant?
- Publication of Notice in Federal Register
- 30 day waiting period
- Written claim submitted
- Continuing consultation
- If uncontested, return to Tribe/Native entity or held in trust at the Burke
- Transfer/Reburial

INVENTORIES @ THE BURKE

Inventory process

- Physical review (Shelf by shelf or box by box)
- Records review (Accession and loan records)
- Archive review (Field notes, maps, etc.)

Inventory process @ the Burke

- 1995 Submitted individual catalog records to tribes
 - Often over 1,000 individual records
- 1995-2000 Re-submitted individual catalog records and conducted consultation at Burke
- 2003- Submitted site overviews along with GIS map and images

Assessing minimum number of individuals (MNI)

- Discrete burials vs. MNI
- Determining MNI complex and time consuming
- Document methods
- Teeth

Unmodified faunal remains

- At the Burke, sites known to have burials **ALWAYS** had human remains later identified in the unmodified faunal remain level bags.
- One site from San Juan Island :
 - Original MNI=33
 - Additional MNI = 55

DETERMINING CULTURAL AFFILIATION

Lines of Evidence

- Geographical
- Kinship
- Biological
- Archaeological
- Anthropological
- Linguistic
- Folkloric
- Oral tradition
- Historical
- Other relevant information

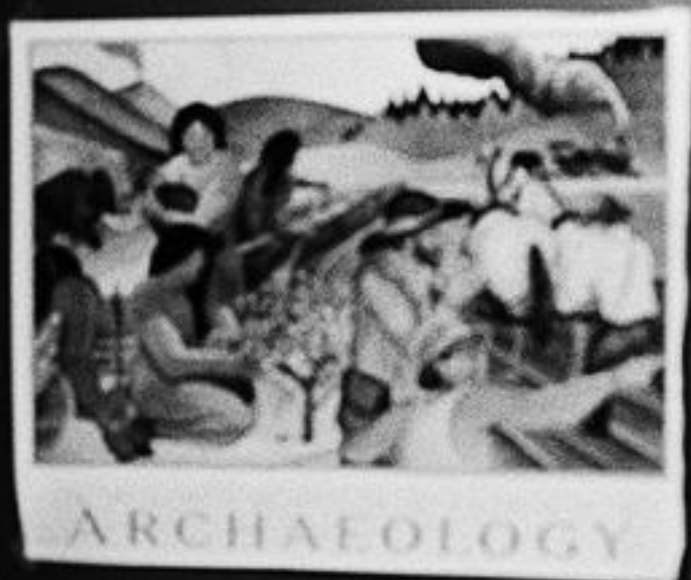
Lines of Evidence

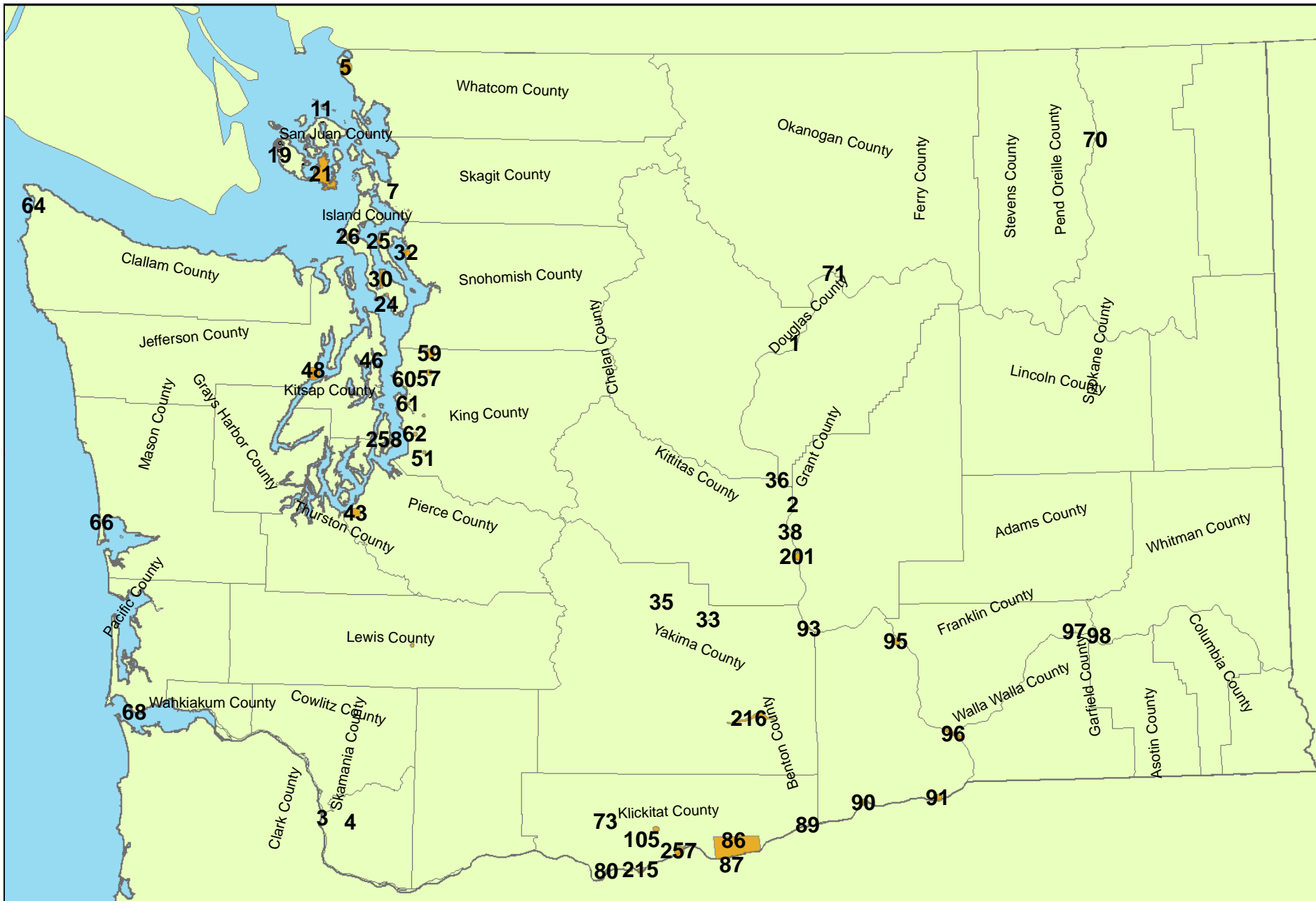
Traditional Knowledge

- Geographic
- Kinship
- Anthropological
- Linguistic
- Folkloric
- Oral tradition
- Other relevant information

Scientific Knowledge

- Geographic
- Biological
- Archaeological
- Anthropological
- Linguistic





Human Remains and Cultural Items



Sensitive Data: Please distribute selectively

0 10 20 30 40 Miles

Decision making process

- Standard of proof for cultural affiliation: reasonable basis
- Standard of proof for claim: preponderance of evidence
- Curator makes decision, Director approves deaccession
- The UW **DOES NOT** have a NAGPRA Committee.

Role of non-federally recognized group @ the Burke

- Culturally unidentifiable remains
- The Burke defers to the culturally affiliated Federally recognized tribes in terms of involvement of a non-federally recognized Indian group.

FUNDING

National NAGPRA

Documentation/Consultation Grants

- 1994 Inventory and Consultation (\$74,700)
- 1996 Determining Cultural Affiliation Consultation Project (\$38,115)
- 2002 Tribal and Museum Cultural Object Pesticide Training and Mitigation (\$73,798)
- 2003 Museum and Tribal GIS Database Development Training (\$74,657)
- 2009 Repatriation in Potential Overlapping Territories (\$64,455)
- 2010 Culturally Unidentifiable Consultation (\$64,257)

Funding Requested:

- 2012 NAGPRA Consultation in Alaska (\$89,882)

University of Washington

Direct Funding

- Graduate Student Research Assistants
- 2005-2010 Curator Peter Lape negotiated for 50% of NAGPRA Coordinator salary to be paid for by the University of Washington as a part of hire package
- 2006 University of Washington commits \$52,000 to assist tribes in reburial costs
- 2010-2015 University extends 50% of NAGPRA Coordinator salary

LESSONS LEARNED: COLUMBIA PLATEAU INTER-TRIBAL REPATRIATION GROUP





Thank you



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